

Family Conflict

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Location HH 373
Times 10:30-12:20 Wednesdays
Start Date September 10

Required Text

Readings are found in "Lessons" on ACE. Required readings are marked (*) on the reading list. Additional readings are provided to assist you in preparing your seminar presentations and for general interest.

Course Description

Psychology 453 is a Senior Honours Seminar in Developmental Psychology. Our focus is on Family Conflict, which we explore in various family relationships. We place emphasis on the dynamics of conflict in families, exploring the implications of conflict within one family relationship for other family members.

Course Objectives

- To acquire substantive knowledge concerning processes and consequences of family conflict.
- To examine conflict within a variety of family relationships.
- To consider the implications of conflict within one relationship for other family members who might witness or intervene as third parties to conflict.
- To examine information on family conflict critically, and to apply those critical skills in reading, seminar presentation, written papers, and seminar participation.
- To learn to communicate ideas effectively in seminar presentations, written papers, and seminar participation.

Tentative Schedule

September 10 Introduction
September 17 Family Conflict Processes (class 2)
September 24 Disagreements between Parents and Young Children (class 3)
October 1 Parent-Adolescent Conflict (class 4)
October 8 Ethnicity, Immigration and Parent-Child Conflict (class 5)
October 15 Sibling Conflict (class 6)
October 22 Parents as Third Parties to their Children's Conflicts (class 7)
October 29 Marital Conflict (class 8)
November 5 Impact of Marital Conflict on Children (class 9)
November 12 Reading day
November 19 Family Conflict Mediation (class 10)
November 26 Mediation Simulations (class 11)
Note: Student seminar presentations will occur in all but classes 1, 2, and 11.

Course Requirements

Student Seminar Presentations: You will each be responsible for an oral presentation planned with two other students. Readings will be suggested for your group and you will be responsible for selecting those that you will emphasize. You will organize the seminar and be responsible for the presentation of new material and for leading group discussion on aspects of your topic. The group will be graded on the quality of the seminar presentation, including the style and substance of the presentation, the critical qualities you bring to the evaluation of research and theory, and your abilities to give considered, knowledgeable answers to questions on your topic.

Written Papers: Written work will be four brief essays. Specific topics will be assigned by students who are presenting each week, in consultation with me. Each student will select four topics for essays; you may not submit an essay on the topic of your seminar presentation. Essays should be three or four pages in length (typed, double spaced, readable font) and should be prepared in APA style (with respect to references especially). Essays must be submitted prior to or at the class where the topic is presented so that they may serve the goal of preparing you for discussion of each topic. (I prefer printed papers, but you may also use the ACE drop box to submit your essays prior to class.)

You will receive topic assignments for each paper at least one week before it is due. You may also deviate from the assigned topic with my prior permission. As with the seminars, I expect to see a considered, critical stance toward the theoretical and empirical literature, an accurate and pertinent representation of that literature, as well as the application of ideas from your readings to the specific topic of your paper. Pay special attention to answering the specific questions outlined in the topic assignment. I expect to see clear communication of your ideas and attention to style in your written papers.

Grading Policy

Four essays: Each graded out of 20. You may select among weekly topics, but cannot write about the topic of your own seminar presentation. One group presentation: Graded out of 20. The group presentation will be graded as a whole; however, I reserve the right to provide individual grades that are either higher or lower than the group grade in exceptional circumstances. Participation: Graded out of 10. Participation grades depend on both attendance and participation in class discussion. Total = 110. Grades will be prorated $((\text{your grade}/110) \times 100) = \text{final grade}$.

Attendance Policy

Required.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: in order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline,

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm> Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Note on Plagiarism: Plagiarism includes the use of another person's work without indicating a direct quotation or without proper citation. It is a serious academic offense and University regulations will be followed if plagiarism is suspected.